

Haxey Parish Council, Newsletter, March 2013

Parish Clerk - Deb Hotson

Email: haxeypc@live.co.uk

Postal Address: Haxey Memorial Hall, High Street, Haxey, DN9 2HH

Telephone: 01652 618306 / 0784 220 1877

Website: www.haxeyparish.org.uk

Precept 2013/14

Haxey Parish Council Finance Committee met on 19 November 2012 to discuss the Council's planned commitments and accounts and to decide a precept for 2013/2014 to be recommended to the full Council. The Finance Committee resolved unanimously to recommend a precept for the next year of £35,000.

National Government directives which changed the way that Principal Authorities funded Council Tax Benefit, in that only 90% of the benefit would be funded from Westminster from April 2013, necessitated North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) to review how this 10% shortfall would be funded.

For the coming year, Haxey Parish Council met the criteria set out by NLC for it to receive the complete parish precept without any deduction for Council Tax Benefit and the full Parish Council therefore accepted the Finance Committee's precept recommendation at its January 2013 meeting. This is the **fourth** year that the Haxey Parish precept has been maintained at £35,000 and the Parish Council remains committed to implementing opportunities for making savings and providing residents with value for money, whilst continuing to maintain the services it currently provides to the community and the parish.

Grass Cutting Tender

Tenders are invited in writing for grass cutting of St. Nicholas Churchyard (closed) and the Greenhill, Haxey.

Tenders should provide two quotes, one for 11 cuts including the removal of all grass cuttings and two cuts of the central area (Churchyard (closed)) and a quote for the individual price of one cut and removal of all grass cuttings. For further details contact the Clerk.

Hanging Basket & Planter Tenders

Tenders are also invited to prepare and display the hanging baskets and planters located around the village. There are 13 hanging baskets, 9 troughs & 2 concrete planters which are located at Haxey Cof E Primary School.

For further details please contact the Clerk.

Both tenders to be sent in separate sealed envelope marked in the bottom left hand corner "Grass Cutting or Hanging Baskets".

To:- The Clerk, Haxey Parish Council, Haxey Memorial Hall, High Street, Haxey, DN9 2HH by 5:00pm on the closing date – Friday 15th March 2013.

Westwoodside Playing Fields Association

Following the request from the Westwoodside Playing Fields Association (WPFA) Chairman that the Parish Council considers taking on the management responsibility for the Pavilion building and associated areas, Haxey Parish Council discussed the request for support at its November and December 2012 meetings and resolved to accede to the request in principle and to investigate further. On 18 January 2013, the Council's Land Working Party (LWP) considered an analysis of the governance of the Playing Fields and agreed to make recommendations to the full Council on 22 January 2013. The Full Council accepted the recommendations of the LWP and agreed unanimously that the following is taken forward:

- a) Change the Trustee status to Haxey Parish Council. A Council can be the sole Trustee of a Charity. The Councillors are not THE Trustees; it is the corporate body of the Council which has that position.
- b) If any support is provided, the WPFA Treasurer duties are carried out by the Council's Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).
- c) After the completion of the process of deciding a general way forward, further consultation with both WPFA and the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association (ERNLLCA) is carried out with the aim of producing any detailed changes to the WPFA constitution to enable the Parish Council to provide support.

Following the positive decision by the Full Council on the general way forward, the LWP has now had further consultations with ERNLLCA and has also received written advice from the Charity Commission (CC) with reference to WPFA, which is set out in brief as follows:

- a) ERNLLCA was initially concerned about the actual position of the CC in the Trusteeship issue; however, the CC has confirmed that the WPFA is registered and the extant Constitution is the 7 May 1992, as amended on 17 April 1996, version. The CC advises that the proposed change of Trusteeship is possible from their perspective as Custodian Trustee.
- b) ERNLLCA advises that it should be possible to change the Trustee status by the use of a WPFA extraordinary public meeting. The CC confirms this, advising that Clause 12 of the Constitution should be invoked: "Any amendments to the Constitution shall be approved following Resolution at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose. The twenty one day's notice rule will apply. No alteration shall be made which would cause the Association to be a "Charity at law".
- c) The CC advises that the assets of the charity do not become part of the corporate property of the Parish Council; the Parish Council would simply manage the assets in accordance with the charitable trusts contained in the Constitution.

Now the LWP has this more detailed information, it is in a position to make recommendations on the way forward and sequence of events to the full Parish Council at its February meeting. At going to press date, the following is the draft of those recommendations and sequence of events which are to be considered by the Parish Council on 26 February 2013 with the aim of coming to a decision on providing support to WPFA:

- a) WPFA takes independent advice that the proposed Trusteeship change is within its powers set out in the Conveyance and Constitution.
- b) WPFA calls an open Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Management Committee and Parishioners giving the required 21 day's notice and the necessary publicity to the Parish. During this period the Parish Council RFO carries out a formal due diligence of WPFA accounts.
- c) The one agenda item for the open meeting should be "Proposed Change of WPFA Trustees to Haxey Parish Council".
- d) Following positive support for the change of Trusteeship from the General Meeting, Haxey Parish Council assumes the role of acting Trustee for Westwoodside Playing Fields.
- e) The Parish Council RFO assumes responsibility for the WPFA accounts as Treasurer following satisfactory due diligence.
- f) The Parish Council establishes a WPFA Working Group within the LWP, nominates a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and co-opts the remains of the outgoing WPFA Management Committee to the Working Group. The Constitution is reviewed and amended as necessary to reflect the new governance. Further advice on the powers of this group will need to be confirmed with ERNLLCA
- g) The Parish Council Clerk completes and transmits the CC Charity Amendment Form and following acknowledgement, Haxey Parish Council assumes the Trusteeship of WPFA.
- h) The WPFA Working Group commences fund raising activity to upgrade the Pavilion, the access road and the car park, initially obtaining cost estimates for completion of the necessary work.

There remains an urgent need for more community involvement in Westwoodside Playing Fields and Residents of the Parish interested in supporting this project are encouraged to contact Haxey Parish Council Clerk to volunteer their services to this worthwhile community facility.